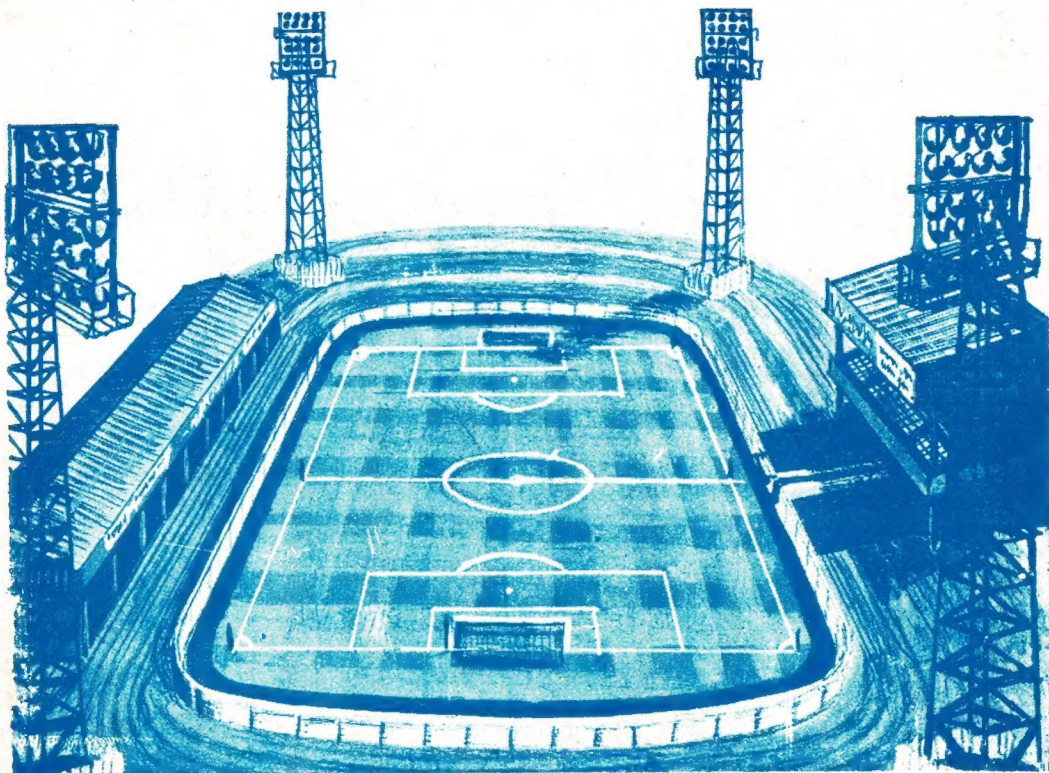


ATHLETIC

WIGAN

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME — 15p



FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

v.

TORQUAY UNITED

WEDNESDAY, 24th JANUARY, 1979 — Kick-off 7-30 p.m.

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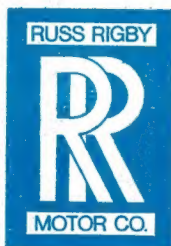
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OUR VISITORS

A warm welcome is extended to Torquay today for their first ever Football League game at Wigan.

Although we have never seen the Seasiders at Springfield Park in a League fixture, they were our opponents in the F.A. Cup 2nd Round in 1935, when we as a Cheshire League side created quite a sensation by winning 3-2. At that time the great Don Welsh was a young centre-half with Torquay, but went on to Charlton where he made quite a name.

Torquay were formed in 1920 by the amalgamation of Torquay Town and Babbacombe hence their present title Torquay United. In 1921 they became a professional club and joined the Southern League, but it was not until 1927 that their appli-

cation to join the Football League was accepted. That year they outvoted the bottom club Aberdare by 26 votes to 19 after a tie.

Their ground, named Plainmoor, is pleasantly situated and has a capacity of around 25,000. They have covered accommodation for over 8,000 spectators.

Torquay is one of the few clubs to suffer from fine weather—sometimes in early and late season their beautiful beaches prove to be more attractive than football and it is perhaps for this reason that Torquay prefer to play their games in the evenings.

Allan Brown, our manager in the sixties, had quite a spell as manager at Torquay.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

SATURDAY, 3rd FEBRUARY, 1979 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

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FROM THE MANAGERS DESK

It is a great pleasure to welcome Mike Green and his Torquay side to Springfield Park for what should prove to be a very attractive game. Torquay have done well away from home this season, and a couple of their first class results has been a win at Barnsley and a good Cup win at Walsall. They put up a creditable performance this week at Newcastle before going down by three goals to one.

Momentum Going

One of the major problems of this bad weather spell is to keep a momentum going when things are locking well. A long lay off can bring problems and that is why it has been

imperative for us to keep training at full throttle. This we have been able to achieve fairly well, but at the end of the day match practice is necessary to keep the edge on players and all I can hope is the quicker we get back to normal weather the better it will be for all concerned.

New Year

Since this is our first home game of the New Year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our loyal supporters for their wonderful support this season so far, and I hope we can continue to press the leaders and be as successful in 1979 as we have in 1978. Enjoy today's match.

I. McNEILL.

FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION IV

	Home					Away						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portsmouth	24	9	2	1	22	3	5	2	5	21	20	32
Wimbledon	22	9	1	1	23	12	4	5	2	16	14	32
Aldershot	25	8	4	1	21	9	3	6	3	14	15	32
Grimsby	25	9	2	2	34	13	4	2	6	13	14	30
Reading	23	9	2	0	24	5	3	4	5	13	19	30
Barnsley	21	6	2	2	22	10	5	5	1	13	6	29
WIGAN ATHLETIC	23	8	0	3	18	11	3	4	5	9	12	26
Newport	24	5	4	4	17	17	4	3	4	16	15	25
Port Vale	25	4	6	3	19	18	5	1	6	18	20	25
Stockport	24	8	2	3	21	9	1	4	6	14	21	24
Hartlepool	22	4	6	2	18	13	3	3	4	7	16	23
Hereford	22	5	5	1	18	11	3	1	7	13	16	22
Scunthorpe	23	7	1	4	18	17	1	5	5	9	14	22
Bradford C.	23	6	2	3	19	13	4	0	8	11	25	22
Torquay	21	6	1	2	15	7	3	2	7	10	20	21
Bournemouth	23	5	2	5	16	12	2	4	5	6	8	20
Huddersfield	22	7	4	1	18	8	0	2	8	5	16	20
Northampton	22	6	4	2	22	14	1	2	7	11	22	20
York	21	4	3	3	11	11	4	1	6	9	18	20
Darlington	23	3	5	3	13	10	3	2	7	15	27	19
Doncaster	22	4	4	4	15	14	2	2	6	12	19	18
Crewe Alex	22	2	3	5	12	18	2	5	5	9	20	16
Rochdale	23	2	3	5	7	14	1	4	8	9	23	13
Halifax	23	1	3	6	5	14	0	2	11	10	28	7



Wigan substitute Derek Brownbill squares the ball for centre forward Peter Houghton to score the last minute equaliser against Bury last Saturday.



Centre-half Noel Ward gets in a fierce shot which beats Bury goalkeeper Forrest, but the ball went just over the crossbar.

(Pictures by courtesy Wigan Observer)

PEN PICTURES OF TORQUAY UNITED F.C.

JOHN TURNER

Born Peterlee. Goalkeeper. Began his career with Derby County and during this time with them was loaned to four different League Clubs — Doncaster, Brighton, Peterborough and Huddersfield. Was then transferred to Reading where he made a total of 34 League appearances before joining Torquay in July 1978.

CLINT BOULTON

Born in Stoke-on-Trent. Utility player who made 200 appearances for Port Vale where he was club captain at the time of his transfer to Torquay United in November 1971. Has since made 249 League appearances to the end of 1977-78 season and scored 34 goals for the club.

JES PAYNE

Born in Crayford, Kent. Signed in Dec. 1977 from Leicester City. Jes (real name Jeremy) made four appearances in the defence last season.

ROY DAVIES

Born in London. Signed from Reading for £11,000 in September 1978. An outstanding midfield general who was made captain of his previous club in his first season. His first club was Isthmian League, Slough Town. Roy hopes to win a Welsh Cap before long, and so emulate his brother Barrie who has Amateur Caps for the Principality.

MIKE GREEN

Born in Carlisle. Mike joined the club as player/manager in February 1977, from Plymouth Argyle. He had earlier captained both Plymouth and Bristol Rovers to promotion in successive seasons and earlier played for Carlisle and Gillingham.

JIMMY DUNNE

Born in Dublin. Eire International. Jim is now enjoying his second spell with the club having first joined in 1967 from Millwall. He moved to Fulham in 1970, then played for Durban City in South Africa before rejoining United in 1976. Began his career in the League of Ireland with Shelbourne.

ALAN WILSON

Born in Liverpool. A skilful player, signed from Southport in June 1978. This former Everton player can play in midfield or as a striker.

LES LAWRENCE

Born in Rowley Regis. A strong, young striker, Les signed from Telford United in 1977 before he had even played a game for the Southern leaguers, having first joined them from Shrewsbury. His first club was Stourbridge.

STEVE COOPER

Born in Stourbridge. Signed towards the end of last season from Southern League club Stourbridge in time to make ten appearances and score three goals. His previous clubs were Brighton and Dover.

DONAL MURPHY

Born Dublin. A striker who was signed in May 1977 for £10,000. He scored ten goals in 33 League appearances for Coventry, his only other League club (apart from three games on loan to Millwall). Has high hopes of scoring enough goals to win his way into the Republic of Ireland squad.

KENNY RAPER

Born in Consett. A skilful midfield player who signed from Stoke City in June 1977. Ken made 30 League appearances last season scoring seven goals.

PETER COFFILL

Born in Romford. Joined midway through last season from Watford, whom he joined as an apprentice before becoming a full professional. Scored five goals in his 27 League appearances last season.

FRANK O'FARRELL

Born in Cork. Returned to the club in December 1976 after managing Leicester City, Manchester Utd., Cardiff and the Iranian National team. Torquay was his first League club as a manager; and as a player he played for Preston, West Ham and Weymouth (player/manager). Mr. O'Farrell is the club's constant manager.

NEW AND REBUILT

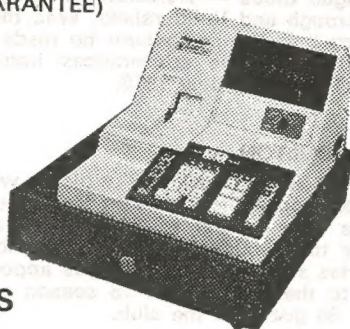
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EDITORIAL

In every club most spectators know the board of directors, they know the manager and the team, they know the trainer and the secretary — but how many know the back room staff.

Since Christmas the Board has been considering applicants for the position as Groundsman, a very difficult post to fill successfully. During this time the weather conditions have created extra work for the ground-staff, three men of pensionable age, Walter Kennedy, Bill Whalley and Jack Day, have kept the "flag flying" — it has not been easy. Continuous snow falls have covered the pitch and terraces. They, together with some volunteers have made efforts to clear the snow and keep the pitch playable. Although they have been unsuccessful in their efforts a wonderful attempt has been made to beat the weather. The Board are grateful for their efforts.

Another important member of the backroom staff is Mrs. M. Ward who controls the pools agents and assists the Secretary in his administrative duties. Incoming telephone calls are

numerous, especially when the state of the weather promises postponed games. Another female member of the staff is the woman who washes the playing kit and keeps the rooms clean—Mrs. I. Deacon. Mr. Frank Postlethwaite is in charge of gate-men and turnstiles and has a busy time on match days.

Lastly, but by no means the least important is Dunc Colquhoun, the physiotherapist, who is always at hand to attend to the players bruises and injuries.

Apart from the Club's backroom staff there is the Supporters' Club staff: steward and stewardess, Mr. & Mrs. Moss; the cleaners and the voluntary working committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Peter Woods and the Friends of Wigan Athletic who are useful cogs in a big wheel which has to turn steadily in order to attain success.

We thank all these people for their efforts. I may have omitted someone, I hope not. If so, please accept my apologies.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Inclement weather since New Year's Day has made it impossible to play more than one game during the first three weeks of 1979. That one game at Port Vale on 9th Jan., was lost by the odd goal in three, but we considered ourselves a little unlucky in having a late equaliser disallowed.

Although no manager or his team relish a long lay-off, it does sometimes help to heal a few injuries and minor ills, John Brown and Joe Hinnigan are now fully fit and looking forward to their first game for a few weeks. I am sure many players would rather not play than put up with the weather conditions in recent weeks. One can hardly expect professionals to play on the types of pitches we have been experiencing lately.

Tonight's game with Torquay Utd. should be an attractive fixture. I personally welcome Mr. A. J. Boyce, his directors and team, for their first ever visit to Springfield Park in a Football League game. It was in the early thirties, when, as a non-league side, we beat the Devon club by 3 goals to 2 in the 2nd Round of the F.A. Cup.

At this stage of the season we look back to our non-League days when, on certain occasions we competed in the 3rd Round of the F.A. Cup. If beaten, we still had the Challenge Trophy — which was a Wembley Trail. Last year we lost the F.A. Cup-tie at Birmingham, but our standard of football, although losing 4-0, was sufficient to gain support at the Football League's A.G.M. last June.

Non-League football had to have other attractions after a F.A. Cup defeat. There was the Challenge Trophy and the Lancashire Junior Cup to look forward to, but now we are in the Football League, exit from the F.A. Cup means further determination to improve our League position even to the extent of promotion. This season we have a chance, and I am sure the manager and his team will make every effort.

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FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

WEDNESDAY, 24th JANUARY, 1979 — Kick-off 7-30 p.m.

LINE-UP

Wigan Athletic

- 1 John Brown
- 2 Kevin Smart
- 3 Joe Hinnigan
- 4 Tommy Gore
- 5 Noel Ward
- 6 Dave Fretwell
- 7 Frank Corrigan
- 8 Jeff Wright
- 9 Peter Houghton
- 10 Mickey Moore
- 11 Ian Purdie
- 12 Derek Brownbill

Referee :

Mr. G. P. OWEN
(Anglesey)

Linesmen :

Mr. J. M. Rutter
(Northwich)
Red Flag

Mr. P. A. Tyldesley
(Stockport)
Yellow Flag

FOR YOUR RECORD

Result :

Attendance :

Scorers :

Torquay United

- 1 John Turner
- 2 Clint Boulton
- 3 Jes Payne
- 4 Roy Davis
- 5 Mike Green
- 6 Jimmy Dunne
- 7 Alan Wilson
- 8 Les Lawrence
- 9 Steve Cooper
- 10 Donal Murphy
- 11 Ken Raper
- 12 Peter Coffill

TODAY'S REFEREE

GWYN P. OWEN (Isle of Anglesey)

Commenced refereeing in the Anglesey League in 1961, then continued via Welsh League North and Welsh League to the Football League referees list.

Refereed the Scotland v. Northern Ireland Amateur International in 1972. Lined the 1970 England v. Scotland Under-23 match, a Football League Cup semi-final in 1972, and a number of U.E.F.A. and European Cup matches.

A married man with three children, he is headmaster of Llanddona Primary School. He has a caravan business (buying and selling), farms and plays cricket. Part-time soccer spokesman on B.B.C. Radio and Television, Welsh speaking programmes.

OPINION

by Harold Ashurst



In the worst winter for many years the football programme throughout the country has been devastated.

On almost every Saturday for the past two months we have witnessed mass postponements in every level of our national sport.

Inevitably there have been complaints from many quarters criticising clubs for not taking adequate precautions to ensure the games go ahead as planned.

In some cases the criticism has been a bit harsh. Can anyone do anything against six inches of snow on top of a frozen pitch as occurred in the North East recently? Of course not, but there have been occasions when clubs have perhaps not done all they might to ensure the paying fans saw a game when they were supposed to.

Two clubs, Arsenal and Leicester City, are a shining example to all. The Highbury club had undersoil heating installed some years ago and have not had more than a handful of games called off since.

Leicester City invested in their famous "balloon" not long ago and that has ensured that the majority of their games have taken place, including remember, the Wigan Ath. v. Enfield Challenge Trophy tie last season when all other grounds were frozen solid.

Of course clubs have retorted that the cost of such steps are too high—then those same clubs go out and pay anything from £100,000 for one player.

There have been many ideas banded about raising the cost for heating pitches and so forth. I might as well add my own. What about the Football League and the FA insisting to clubs that the end of season hand outs from their cup competitions be used for this purpose? The clubs would benefit, so would the authorities and fans.

If that isn't viable, then why not take a step back in years and buy a few tons of straw to cover their pitch with?

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RESULTS 1978-79

HOME MATCHES IN CAPITALS

[illegible]

LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (DIVISION 1)

Wigan Athletic Reserves

1978

August—

18—Blackpool 'A'	H	2-1
25—Southport Res.	H	1-1

September—

2—Everton 'A'	A	2-1
9—Chester 'A'	H	1-3
15—Tranmere R. Res.	A	0-0
16—		
23—Bradford City Res.	H	5-0
30—Liverpool 'A'	A	1-2

October—

7—Rochdale Res.	H	2-2
14—Rochdale Res.	A	0-1
21—Carlisle Utd. Res.	H	2-0
27—Stockport County 'A'	A	8-0

November—

11—Tranmere R. Res.	H	2-2
18—Crewe Alex 'A'	A	3-3
25—Manchester City 'A'	A	2-1

December—

2—Blackpool 'A'	H	
9—Port Vale Res.	H	3-1
13—Macclesfield T. Res.	H	5-1
16—Chester 'A'	A	
26—		
30—Morecambe Res.	A	5-0

1979

January—

1—Oldham Ath. Res.	H (Mn.)
6—Morecambe Res.	H
13—Port Vale Res.	A
20—Manchester City 'A'	H
27—Macclesfield T. Res.	A

February—

3—Bradford City Res.	A
10—Crewe Alex Res.	H
17—Manchester Utd. 'A'	A
24—Oldham Ath. Res.	A

March—

3—Carlisle Res.	A
10—Stockport County 'A'	H
17—Bolton Wanderers 'B'	A
24—Bolton Wanderers 'B'	H
31—Wrexham Res.	A

April—

7—Manchester Utd. 'A'	H
13—Southport Res.	A (Fri.)
15—Wrexham Res.	H
16—	
21—Liverpool 'A'	H
28—	

May—

5—Everton 'A'	H
---------------------	---

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